

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for communication over a network, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a call notification; and
simultaneously transmitting the call notification to a plurality of
communication devices, wherein at least one of the communication devices comprises
an analog device.

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the communication devices is a
device selected from the group consisting of telephones, pagers, and voice mail
systems.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving a call notification
15 comprises receiving a request for a call to a telephone number and further comprising
the step of looking up a plurality of IP addresses based on the telephone number.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the transmitting step comprises simultaneously
initiating contact with each of the plurality of IP addresses based on the telephone
20 number.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the communications devices
comprises a computer device.

6. The method of claim 1 and further comprising the steps of receiving a receipt notification from one of the communication devices and, in response, canceling the call notification to each of the other communication devices.

5

7. The method of claim 1 and further comprising the step of establishing a communication with at least one of the plurality of communication devices.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of establishing a communication
10 comprises establishing a communication with more than one of the communication devices.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the communication connection comprises an audio communication.

15

10. A communication system comprising:

a plurality of converters, each converter operable to sample voice signals and create digital packets containing a representation of the voice signals;

a storage device containing a database of records, each record including a call

5 list of telephone numbers associated with each of a plurality of subscribers; and

a computer system operable under control of software, wherein upon receipt of a call notification from a caller the software causes the computer system to query the database to retrieve a record associated with the call notification and simultaneously transmit digital call notification packets to a plurality of the converters, the digital

10 notification packets including information relating to the call list of telephone numbers in the received record.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein each of the converters comprises:

at least one modem;

15 a router coupled to the modem; and

control circuitry coupled to both the modem and the router.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the computer system communicates with the converters through an internet.

20

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the digital notification packets conform with Internet Protocol.

14. The system of claim 10 wherein the computer system comprises a plurality of interlinked computers.

15. The system of claim 10 and further comprising a plurality of communication
5 devices, each communication device coupled to receive a call notification from the caller via one of the converters.

16. The system of claim 10 wherein each converter is also operable to create voice signals from a digital packet.

17. A communication system comprising:

means for converting voice signals into digital signal packets containing a representation of the voice signals;

5 means for storing a plurality of data records, each data record including a list of communication device addresses associated with each of a plurality of subscribers;

means for simultaneously transmitting digital call notification packets, the digital notification packets including information relating to the list of communication device addresses in one of the data records; and

10 means for forwarding the digital call notification packets from the simultaneous transmitting means to a plurality of communication devices, each communication device associated with a respective one of the communication device addresses.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein at least some of the communication device
15 addresses comprise telephone numbers.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein at least some of the communication device addresses comprise IP addresses.